

the said Chief Justice, the first Words of an Impeachment mentioned in that House is from Mr. Speaker. The Articles exhibited against the Chief Justice were not Articles of Impeachment, they were Articles of Complaint for high Crimes and Misdemeanors committed by him in the Execution of his Office, the Gentlemen who exhibited them are still of Opinion they had sufficient cause to Complain of that Gentleman's Conduct in his Office, his past Actions and Behaviour in that Station (as they thought) had rendered the Lives, Liberties and Fortunes of his Majesty's Subjects in this Province, very precarious, they were certain the Facts alledged by them in their Articles were strictly true, and they never imagined that the Representative Body of the whole Province, would have laid them under any difficulties as to Time, and if the Chief Justice by his own Management, and the scandalous Arts of his Friends, is continued in that Station, and shall hereafter deviate from Law and his Duty, and oppress his Majesty's Subjects of this Colony, it is those Gentlemen are to Answer for it, who were deluded by the Artifices of him and his Friends, or were corrupted by more substantial Motives from their Duty to the Public to prevent an impartial Enquiry into his Conduct.

And what hopes are to be conceived of that Gentleman's future Uprightness and Integrity in that Station may be easily determined, by considering the Nature of the Articles, and the Proofs brought to support them. The whole Conduct of Mr. Speaker and the rest of the Chief Justices Friend's, was calculated only to give Mr. *Smith's* Case a favourable Complection. Should it go home against him, they foresaw that an absolute refusal of Enquiry into his Conduct wou'd not be prudent, and to suffer a strict Enquiry into it would be attended with great Danger to him; in such a [28] nice Affair, they thought the best Steps that could be taken was to call for the Articles when the Gentlemen engaged in that Affair were least aware of it, and to limit them as to Time, that they might fall short in their Proofs, Things would then look (they imagined) with a favourable Aspect, if they should be laid against Mr. *Smith* at home, no Body there might be acquainted with the little Circumstances attending the Affair, such as the Management of the several Elections, and of the Members afterwards, the Behaviour of the Speaker, and the distance of the Evidences from *Newbern*, and the scanty Allowance of Time to prepare and prove Articles of so great Concern and Im-